

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03269 100924Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 SSO-00 /018 W

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O 100745Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2637

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS KABUL 3269

E.O. 11652: NA

AGS: BENC, BEXP, AF, IR

SUBJ: KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT

1. REQUEST DEPT AND TEHRAN PASS FOLLOWING TO KRIS KAPOOR
OR CARL GRAF, FULLER COMPANY, CATASQUA, PA., AND EDWARD GREEF,
FULLER, TEHRAN.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM ENGINEER A. ALI ABAWI,
VICE PRESIDENT (INDUSTRIES), MINISTRY OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES
(MMI) DATED MAY 2, 1977. LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS:

3. QUOTE TO MR. KRIS KAPOOR, GENERAL SALES MANAGER, FULLER
COMPANY. SUBJECT: KANDAHAR CEMENT PROJECT.
DEAR SIR, KINDLY REFER TO YOUR CABLE ADDRESSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY,
MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES. THE SITUATION IS REMAINING
THE SAME AS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH YOU IN SEVERAL MEETINGS
HELD IN THE MINISTRY. IT IS PRESUMED THAT THE SAME SITUATION WILL
CONTINUE TILL END OF JUNE 1977 AND AFTER THAT WE WOULD REVERT
TO THE SUBJECT.

ASSURING YOU OF OUR BEST COOPERATION IN THIS CONNECTION. YOURS
FAITHFULLY, (SIGNED) ENG. A. ALI ABAWI, VICE PRESIDENT
(INDUSTRIES). END QUOTE

4. WE DELAYED TRANSMISSION OF LETTER UNTIL WE COULD VERIFY WITH
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MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES ASSIFI THAT THIS WAS DEFINITIVE
GOVT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) POSITION. ASSIFI'S CONFIRMATION WAS
RECEIVED MAY 8. HOWEVER, ON MAY 9, NEW DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED
WHICH HAVE CAST THE WHOLE MATTER IN A NEW LIGHT.

5. IN MEETING LATE YESTERDAY BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND MINISTER OF
PLANNING KHURRAM, THE MINISTER SAID HAT THE VISIT TO IRAN

MAY 7 AND 8 BY MOHAMMAD NAIM, BROTHER AND SPECIAL ENVOY OF PRES DAUD, HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL (I.E., HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING AFGHAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS BACK ON TRACK). AS A RESULT, A HIGH-LEVEL AFGHAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION -- HEADED BY KHURRAM -- WILL GO TO TEHRAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HOPEFULLY BY THE END OF HIS WEEK, TO DISCUSS IRANIANS UNDEVELOPED PROJECTS. ACCORDING TO KHURRAM, ONE OF HIS TWO PRIORITY SUBJECTS WILL BE FUNDING FOR THE KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT.

6. KHURRAM ALSO ASKED THAT IN THE INTERIM, FULLER REPS IN TEHRAN CONTACT MR. KHALIQIRAD (PHONETIC SPELLING) IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE ASHRAFI, AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE TASLIMI, TO BRIEF THEM ON FEASIBILITY STUDY AND TO STRESS BENEFITS TO BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN WHICH WILL ACCRUE FROM KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT. KHURRAM FEELS THIS WILL FACILITATE HIS OWN DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE OFFICIALS AND SAVE TIME ALL AROUND.

7. FOR TEHRAN. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REACH ED GREEF BY TELEPHONE TO CONVEY ABOVE TO HIM, BUT ATTEMPT MAY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL. HENCE, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING ABOVE, PARTICULARLY FULLER ACTION REQUESTED BY KHURRAM, TO GREEF ASAP.
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